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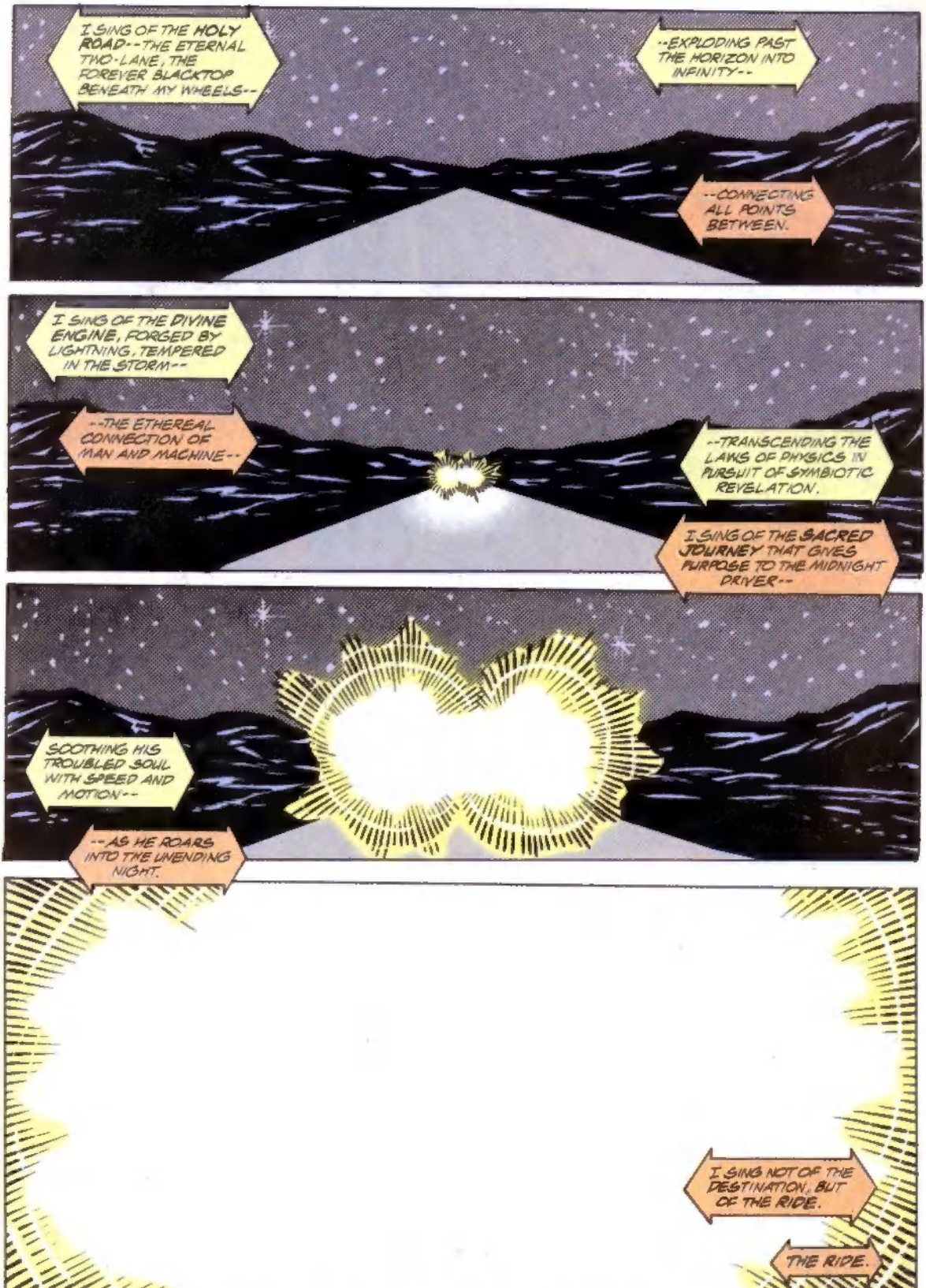
01545
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
SHE'S BACK!
LA LUNÁTICA!


I SING OF THE HOLY ROAD--THE ETERNAL TWO-LANE, THE FOREVER BLACKTOP BENEATH MY WHEELS--
--EXPLODING PAST THE HORIZON INTO INFINITY--
--CONNECTING ALL POINTS BETWEEN.
I SING OF THE DIVINE ENGINE, FORGED BY LIGHTNING, TEMPERED IN THE STORM--
--THE ETHEREAL CONNECTION OF MAN AND MACHINE--
--TRANSCENDING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS IN PURSUIT OF SYMBIOTIC REVELATION.
I SING OF THE SACRED JOURNEY THAT GIVES PURPOSE TO THE MIDNIGHT DRIVER--
SOOTHING HIS TROUBLED SOUL WITH SPEED AND MOTION--
--AS HE ROARS INTO THE UNENDING NIGHT.
I SING NOT OF THE DESTINATION, BUT OF THE RIDE.
THE RIDE.

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MY HEAD...
SHAKTI, WHAT HAPPENED TO US? I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
YOU WERE UNDER THE PSYCHIC CONTROL OF MASTER ZHAO--
--ONCE BRILLIANT LEADER OF THE LAST GENERATION OF X-MEN.
THE DRUGS HE TOOK TO AUGMENT HIS FADING PSIONIC ABILITIES DROVE HIM INSANE.
GUESS WE'VE ALL LEARNED SOMETHING, HUH?
NEXT TIME SOMEONE OFFERS YOU PSI-STEROIDS, JUST SAY NO.
KRYS, HE USED YOU AND TEN EAGLES TO LURE THE REST OF US HERE TO HIS COMPOUND--
--THINKING HE COULD FORCE US INTO BECOMING HIS THIRD DRAFT X-MEN.
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
ROADWORK

ON THE ROAD WITH:

JOHN FRANCIS MOORE — WRITER
RON LIM — PENCILER
KOBLISH, MCKENNA ADAMS, SANDERS III — INKERS
KEN LOPEZ — LETTERER
SMITH, CAPONSACCO — COLORISTS
JOEY CAVALIERI — EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — HIGHWAY PATROL

HIS MISTAKE WAS CHALLENGING ME.
AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO TOUCH HIM TO TAKE HIM OUT.
SHOULDA STAYED IN RETIREMENT, OLD MAN.
THE X-MEN ARE MINE.

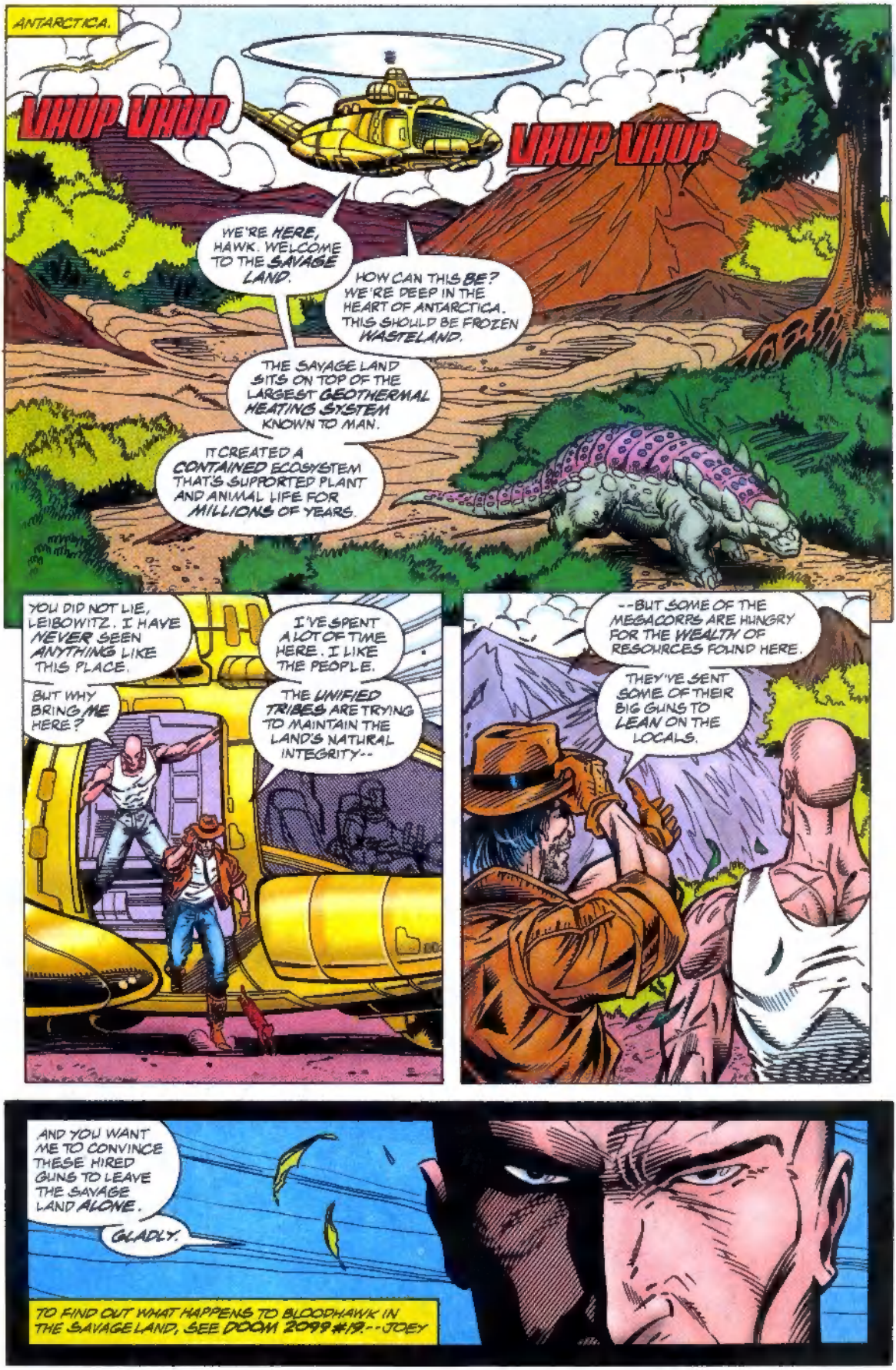
I SAY WE LEAVE THE "MASTER OF MINDFIRE" TO THE COYOTES OUTSIDE.
HE'S NOT DEAD, XI'AN. HE'S IN SOME SORT OF COMA.
ONE MOMENT HE WAS FLOATING OVER YOU, SUSPENDED IN HIS PSIONIC AURA.
THEN HE FELL TO THE GROUND, AS IF SHOCKED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
HE WANTED INSIDE MY HEAD, SO I GAVE HIM THE GUIDED TOUR.
SOME PEOPLE CAN'T HANDLE INTIMACY.
HAH!
DOES XI'AN SOUND DIFFERENT TO YOU?
THERE'S AN EDGE TO HIS VOICE I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, IT'S ALWAYS THE QUIET ONES.
LIKE ME.
KRYS IS RIGHT, SUDDENLY THERE'S SOMETHING... CRUEL... ABOUT HIM.
IT'S NOT LIKE HIM.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW XI'AN IN THE OLD DAYS, WHEN HE WAS WITH THE LAWLESS. I DID.
XI'AN WAS RUTHLESS THEN. IF YOU WERE IN HIS WAY, HE'D HURT YOU WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.
I THOUGHT HE'D CHANGED. MAYBE I WAS WRONG.

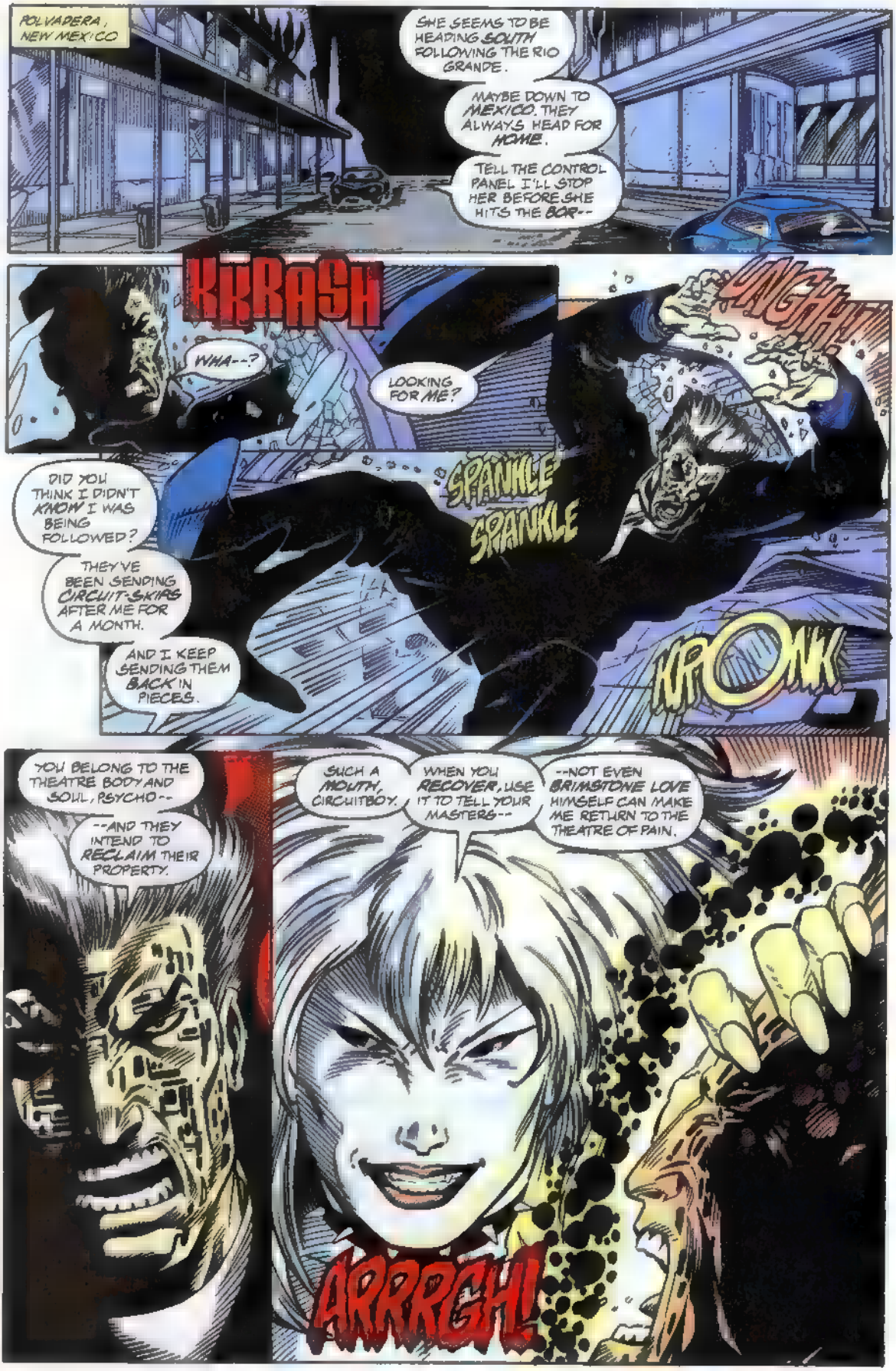
FEELING NOSTALGIC, TEN EAGLES?
AS I RECALL, YOU WEREN'T MAHATMA GANDHI BACK THEN EITHER.
I LET ANGER CONSUME MY LIFE FOR TOO LONG, XI'AN.
IT'S TAKEN TIME, BUT I'VE FINALLY EXORCISED THE INNER DEMONS THAT FUELED MY RAGE.
XI'AN, TEN EAGLES AND JUNKPILE WERE ALL MEMBERS OF THE LAWLESS--
--THAT GANG MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING.
INNER DEMONS? I GOT A FEW OF MY OWN, OLD BUDDY.
AND WHEN ZHAO INVADED MY MIND, I UNLEASHED THEM ALL.
HE EXPECTED ME TO CRUMBLE UNDER HIS PSYCHIC ASSAULT--
--BUT HE WAS ON MY TURF.
THAT MADE HIM VULNERABLE TO ALL THE ANGER AND HATE I'VE BEEN CARRYING.
ANGER'S AN ENERGY, OLD MAN--
--AND YOU TICKED ME OFF!!!

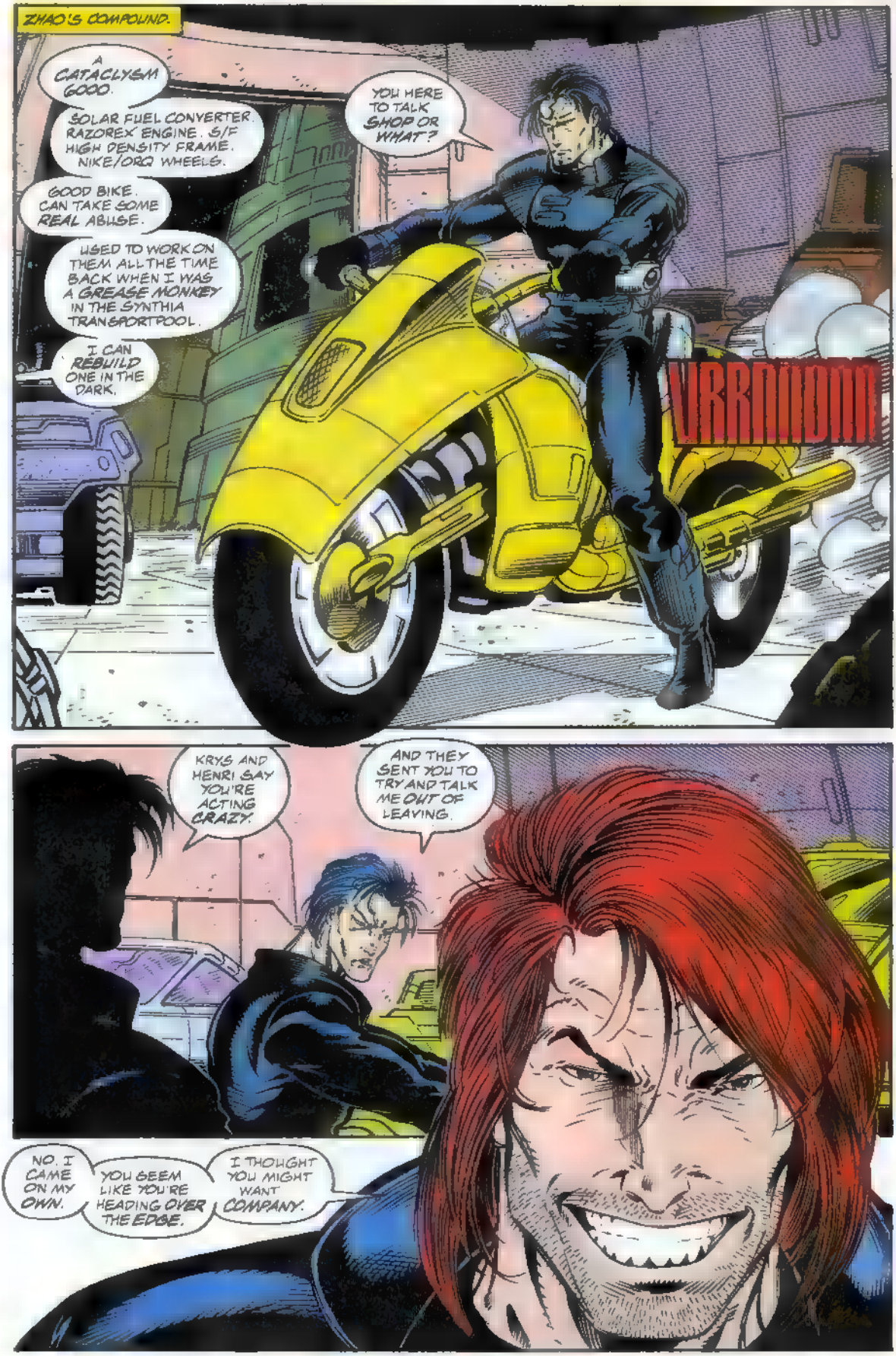
GET AWAY FROM THE MASTER, MUTANT.
WE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HURT HIM ANY FURTHER.
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
YOU'VE DOOMED US ALL.
IF THESE CARBON COPIES WANT TO CHALLENGE ME, THEY'RE WELCOME TO TRY.
I'LL SHUT THEM DOWN JUST LIKE I DID THEIR PRECIOUS MASTER.
OH, IT'S ZHAO'S SECOND DRAFT CHOICES-- FROSTBITE, WINGSPAN, ONE EYED JACK AND PSYCHO K.
ZHAO CREATED THEM AS ANALOGS TO THE ORIGINAL X-MEN.
I CAN MAKE YOUR DEATH COLDER THAN YOU'VE EVER KNOWN, MUTANT.
NO, FROSTBITE.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO EXPEND OUR ENERGY NEEDLESSLY.
DON'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED TO MONSTER.
HE DIED BECAUSE THE CHROMOSOMAL ACCELERATION TREATMENT ZHAO PUT US THROUGH DIDN'T WORK--
--THEY ENHANCED OUR MUTANT ABILITIES BUT MADE US GENETICALLY UNSTABLE.
SOON, WE'RE ALL GOING THE WAY MONSTER DID, OUR BODIES TURNED AGAINST US.

WE HOPED ZHAO MIGHT FIND A WAY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS--
--BUT NOW THAT HE'S PRACTICALLY A VEGETABLE, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE OF THAT.
IF I HAD ACCESS TO ZHAO'S RESEARCH--
--IT'S POSSIBLE I COULD SLOW YOUR GENETIC DETERIORATION USING THIS COMPOUND'S MED LAB.
I CAN BREAK HIS SECURITY CODES EASILY IF YOU WANT INTO HIS DATABANKS.
WHY ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT HELPING THESE SO CALLED "CHOSEN"?
THEY KILLED TWENTY-FIVE INNOCENT PEOPLE AT THE SUGAR MAGNOLIA CO-OP.
BUT THEY WERE UNDER ZHAO'S CONTROL THE SAME WAY WE WERE.
THE DIFFERENCE IS, WE DIDN'T MURDER ANYONE, KRYS.
LET THEM ROT.
WILL YOU ALL SHUT UP!
NOBODY DOES ANYTHING UNTIL I SAY SO.
XI'AN, THESE OUTBURSTS ARE UNLIKE YOU.
LOSE THE PATRONIZING TONE, SHAKTI--
IT'S OLD AND I'M TIRED OF IT.
I'M TIRED OF ALL OF YOU.

HOLD ON. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LECTURED ME ON COMMITMENT TO THE TEAM.
RESURRECTING THE X-MEN WAS YOUR DREAM.
THE DREAM IS OVER. I'M AWAKE.
GET OUT OF MY WAY.
XI'AN?!? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
NO, I'VE COME TO MY SENSES. THE WORLD'S IN A DOWNWARD SPIRAL. WE CAN'T CHANGE THAT.
BUT WE CAN CUT OURSELVES IN FOR A PIECE OF THE ACTION.
WE HAVE POWER. WE CAN TAKE WHATEVER WE WANT.
WE CAN SUCCEED WHERE THE LAWLESS FAILED.
YOU'RE LIVING IN THE PAST, XI'AN. THE LAWLESS SELF-DESTRUCTED.
THEN GO BACK TO YOUR SENSITIVE ARTIST'S LIFE, TEN EAGLES. I DON'T NEED YOU.
I DON'T NEED ANYONE!

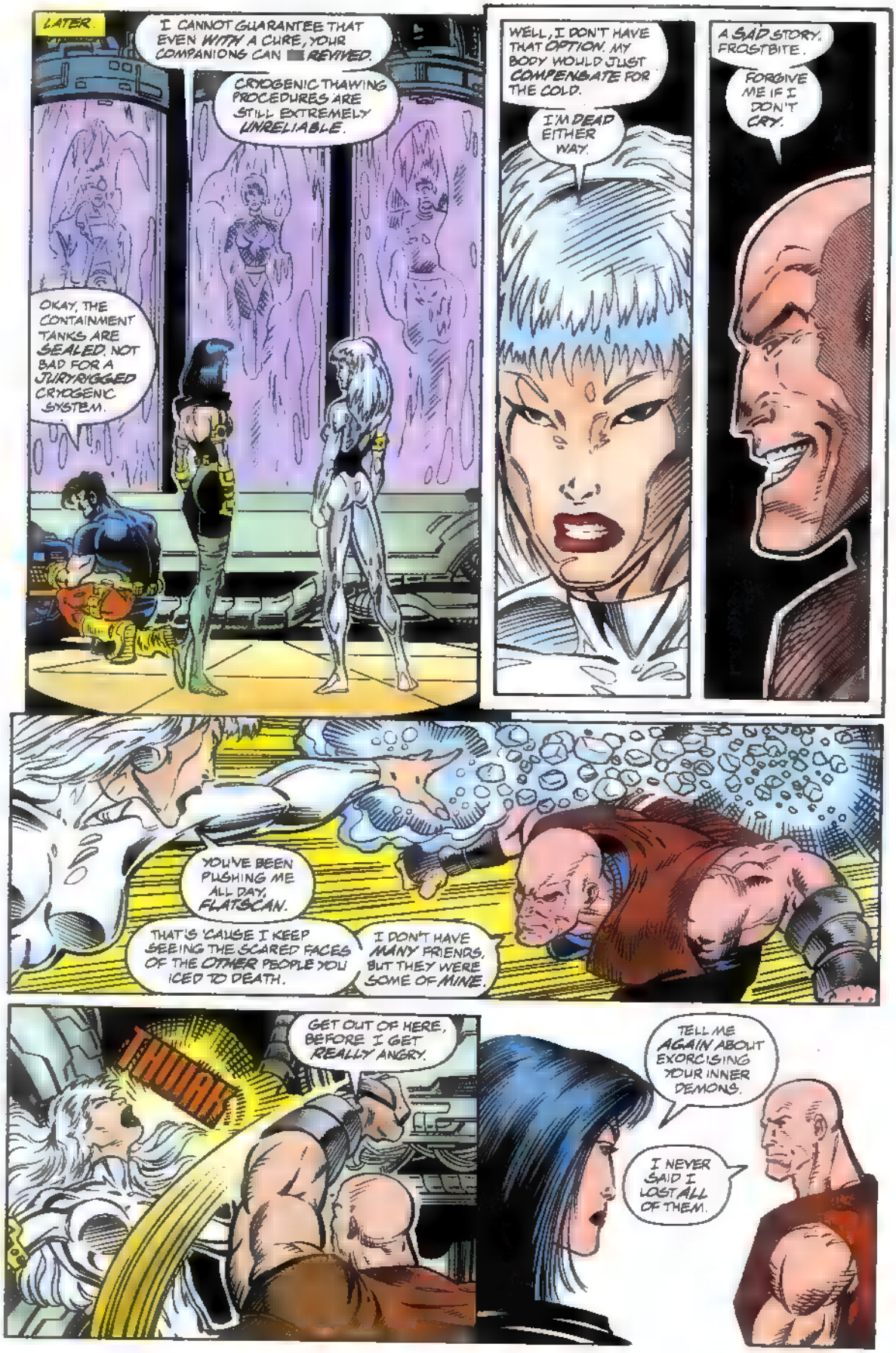

ANTARCTICA.
VHUP VHUP
VHUP VHUP
WE'RE HERE, HAWK. WELCOME TO THE SAVAGE LAND.
HOW CAN THIS BE? WE'RE DEEP IN THE HEART OF ANTARCTICA. THIS SHOULD BE FROZEN WASTELAND.
THE SAVAGE LAND SITS ON TOP OF THE LARGEST GEOTHERMAL HEATING SYSTEM KNOWN TO MAN.
IT CREATED A CONTAINED ECOSYSTEM THAT'S SUPPORTED PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.
YOU DID NOT LIE, LEIBOWITZ. I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS PLACE.
I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME HERE. I LIKE THE PEOPLE.
BUT WHY BRING ME HERE?
THE UNIFIED TRIBES ARE TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE LAND'S NATURAL INTEGRITY--
--BUT SOME OF THE MEGACORPS ARE HUNGRY FOR THE WEALTH OF RESOURCES FOUND HERE.
THEY'VE SENT SOME OF THEIR BIG GUNS TO LEAN ON THE LOCALS.
AND YOU WANT ME TO CONVINCE THESE HIRED GUNS TO LEAVE THE SAVAGE LAND ALONE.
GLADLY.
TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO BLOODHAWK IN THE SAVAGE LAND, SEE DOOM 2099 #19.--JOEY


ROLVADERA, NEW MEXICO
SHE SEEMS TO BE HEADING SOUTH FOLLOWING THE RIO GRANDE.
MAYBE DOWN TO MEXICO. THEY ALWAYS HEAD FOR HOME.
TELL THE CONTROL PANEL I'LL STOP HER BEFORE SHE HITS THE BOR--
KKRASH
WHA--?
LOOKING FOR ME?
UNGH!
SPANKLE SPANKLE
DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS BEING FOLLOWED?
THEY'VE BEEN SENDING CIRCUIT-SKINS AFTER ME FOR A MONTH.
AND I KEEP SENDING THEM BACK IN PIECES.
KRONK
YOU BELONG TO THE THEATRE BODY AND SOUL, PSYCHO--
--AND THEY INTEND TO RECLAIM THEIR PROPERTY.
SUCH A MOUTH, CIRCUITBOY.
WHEN YOU RECOVER, USE IT TO TELL YOUR MASTERS--
--NOT EVEN BRIMSTONE LOVE HIMSELF CAN MAKE ME RETURN TO THE THEATRE OF PAIN.
ARRRGH!

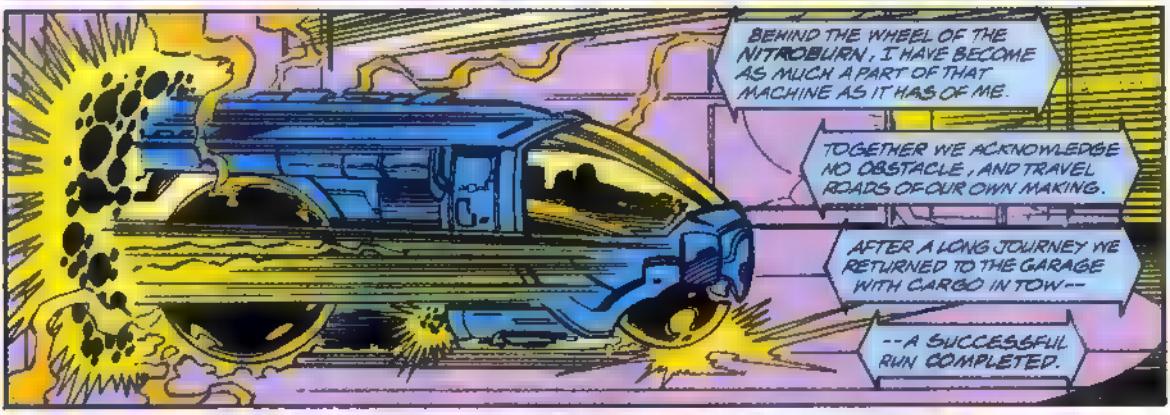

ZHAO'S COMPOUND.
A CATACLYSM GOOD.
SOLAR FUEL CONVERTER. RAZOREX ENGINE. S/F HIGH DENSITY FRAME. NIKE/ORO WHEELS.
GOOD BIKE. CAN TAKE SOME REAL ABUSE.
USED TO WORK ON THEM ALL THE TIME BACK WHEN I WAS A GREASE MONKEY IN THE SYNTHIA TRANSPORTPOOL.
I CAN REBUILD ONE IN THE DARK.
YOU HERE TO TALK SHOP OR WHAT?
VRRMMM
KRYS AND HENRI SAY YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY.
AND THEY SENT YOU TO TRY AND TALK ME OUT OF LEAVING.
NO. I CAME ON MY OWN.
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE HEADING OVER THE EDGE.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT COMPANY.

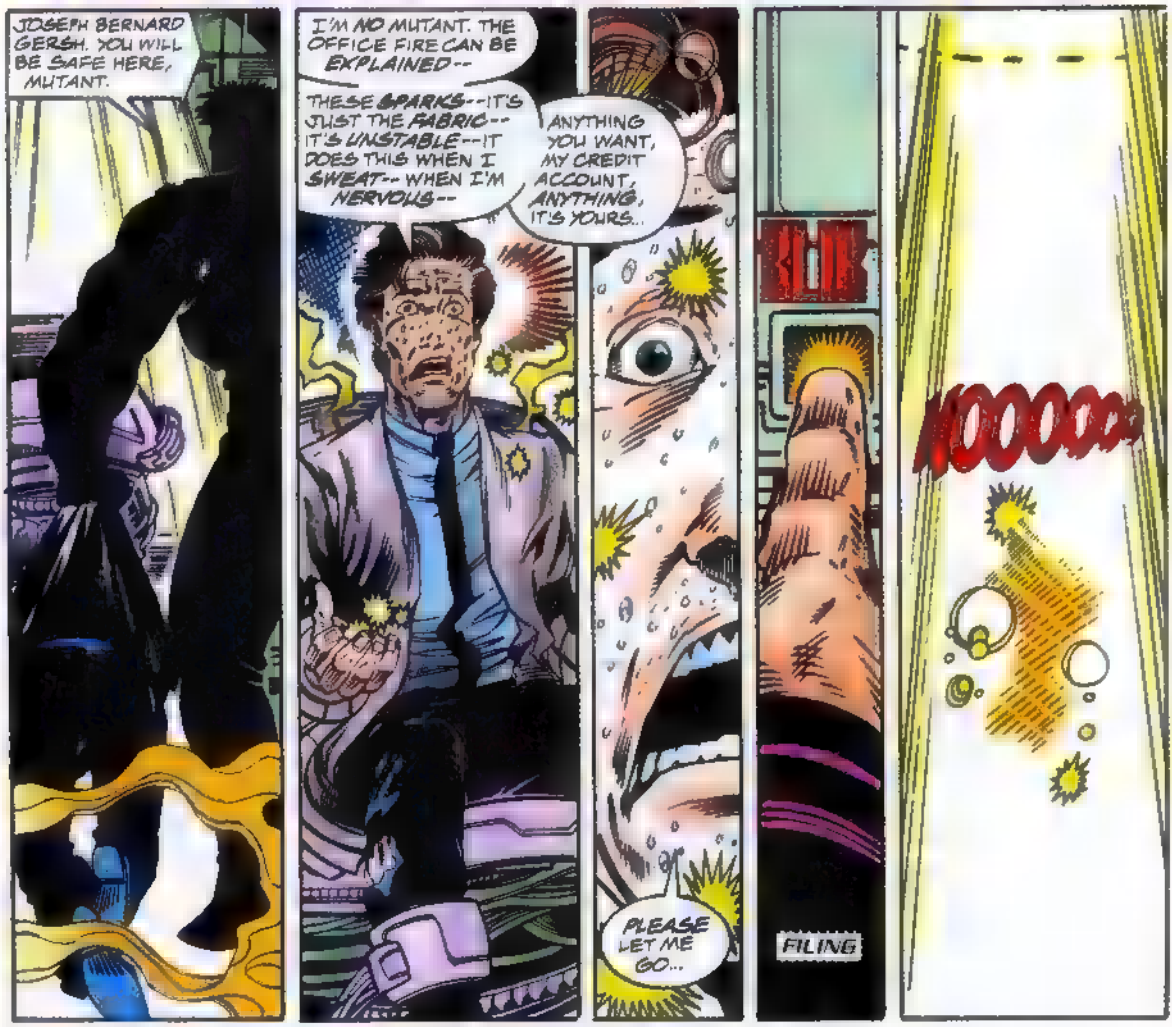
WE'VE GOT GROUND TO COVER.
KEEP UP WITH ME, BECAUSE I WON'T WAIT FOR YOU.
WHOOO-YEAH!
RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
CHONG

INSIDE.
SHAKTI, YOU KNOW XI'AN BETTER THAN ANY OF US. WHAT'S UP WITH THIS NEW ATTITUDE?
RECENTLY, XI'AN CONFIDED THAT HE'S BEEN HAUNTED BY VISIONS OF HIS FORMER OUTLAW SELF.
FLASHBACKS?
NO, XI'AN SPOKE OF THE "GHOST" OF HIS PAST IN THE THIRD PERSON, AS A SEPARATE ENTITY.
BASED ON THIS SUDDEN PERSONALITY SHIFT, I WONDER IF HE'S NOT SUFFERING FROM SOME SORT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA.
A MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER? THAT'S A RADICAL DIAGNOSIS, DOCTOR HADDAD.
I'M MERELY SPECULATING. I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND XI'AN'S MOTIVATIONS.
I'M BETTER AT PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE SOLVED EMPIRICALLY.
LIKE FINDING A MEANS TO SLOW THE GENETIC DETERIORATION OF THE REMAINING CHOSEN.
WHAT ABOUT A DEEP FREEZE?
CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION IS A POSSIBILITY, BUT WITHOUT THE RIGHT TECH--
I'M THE RIGHT TECH. I'M A WALKING REFRIGERATION UNIT.
I'M NOT CRAZY ENOUGH TO LAUGH THIS ONE OFF, JACK. I'M SCARED.
YOU HEARD WHAT ZHAO SAID, K, WE'RE ONE BIG FAILED EXPERIMENT. IT'S NOT "IF", IT'S "WHEN".
CLOCK'S RUN OUT FOR ME, KIDDIES...
FROSTBITE, DO IT NOW--
--BECAUSE IT HURTS...

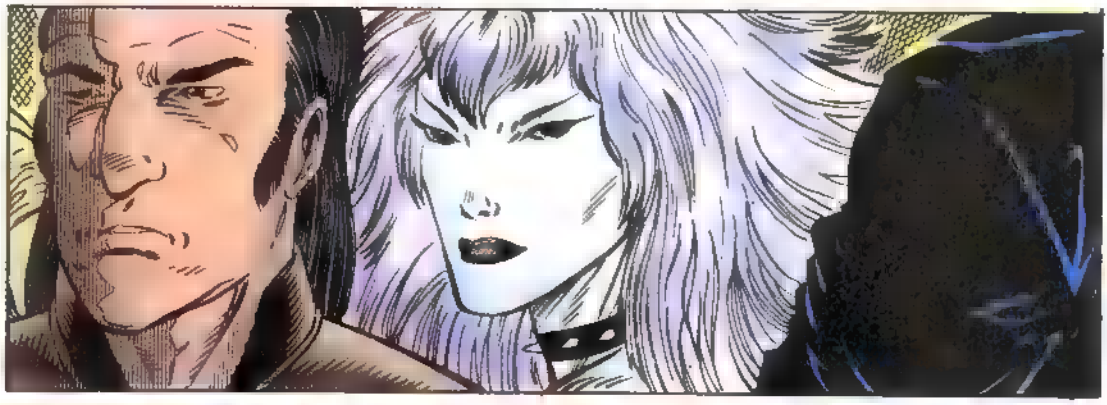

LATER.
I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT EVEN WITH A CURE, YOUR COMPANIONS CAN ■ REVIVED.
CRYOGENIC THAWING PROCEDURES ARE STILL EXTREMELY UNRELIABLE.
OKAY, THE CONTAINMENT TANKS ARE SEALED. NOT BAD FOR A JURYRIGGED CRYOGENIC SYSTEM.
WELL, I DON'T HAVE THAT OPTION. MY BODY WOULD JUST COMPENSATE FOR THE COLD.
I'M DEAD EITHER WAY.
A SAD STORY, FROSTBITE.
FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T CRY.
YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING ME ALL DAY, FLATSCAN.
THAT'S 'CAUSE I KEEP SEEING THE SCARED FACES OF THE OTHER PEOPLE YOU ICED TO DEATH.
I DON'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS, BUT THEY WERE SOME OF MINE.
THUNK
GET OUT OF HERE, BEFORE I GET REALLY ANGRY.
TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT EXORCISING YOUR INNER DEMONS.
I NEVER SAID I LOST ALL OF THEM.

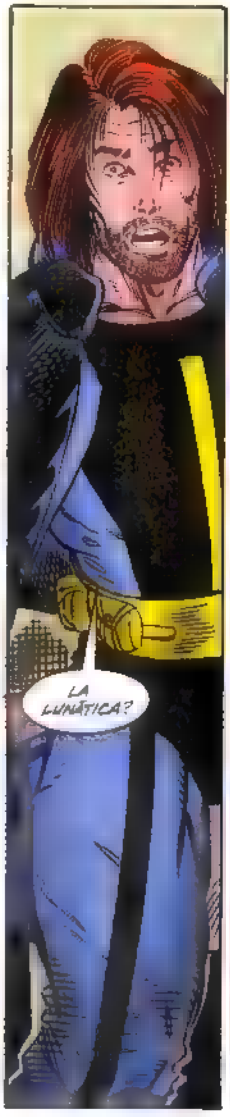
THE ROAD OVERCOMES THE BARRIERS OF GEOGRAPHY--
--FACILITATING MOVEMENT AND ACCESS--
--MAKING "HERE" AND "THERE" INTERCHANGEABLE.


BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE NITROBURN, I HAVE BECOME AS MUCH A PART OF THAT MACHINE AS IT HAS OF ME.
TOGETHER WE ACKNOWLEDGE NO OBSTACLE, AND TRAVEL ROADS OF OUR OWN MAKING.
AFTER A LONG JOURNEY WE RETURNED TO THE GARAGE WITH CARGO IN TOW--
--A SUCCESSFUL RUN COMPLETED.

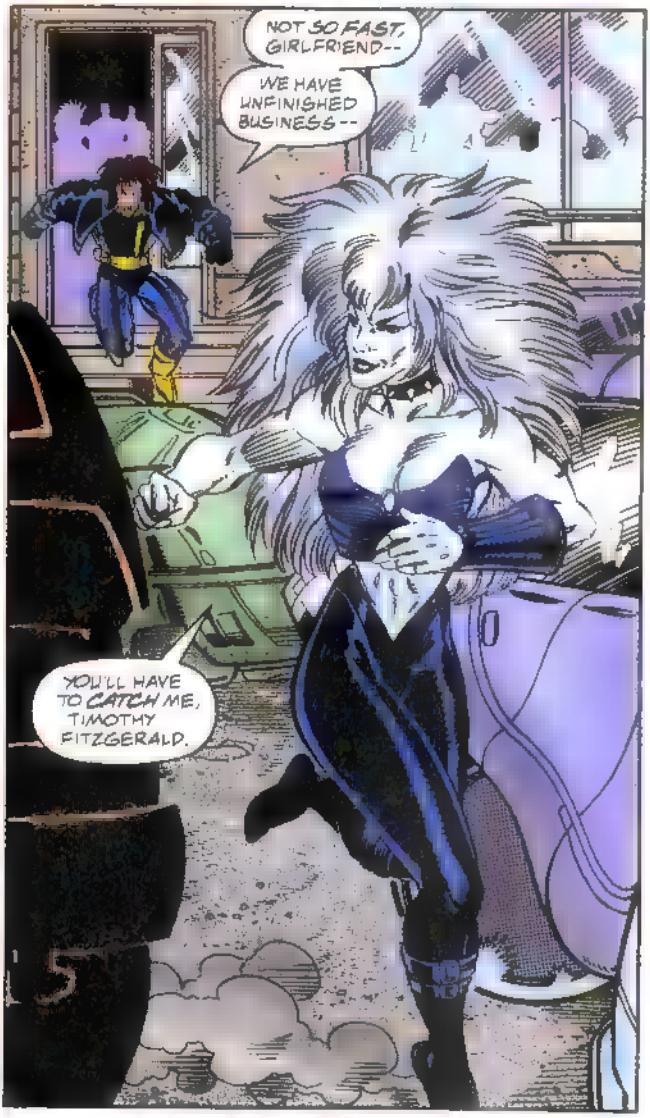

JOSEPH BERNARD GERSH. YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE, MUTANT.
I'M NO MUTANT. THE OFFICE FIRE CAN BE EXPLAINED--
THESE SPARKS--IT'S JUST THE FABRIC--IT'S UNSTABLE--IT DOES THIS WHEN I SWEAT--WHEN I'M NERVOUS--
ANYTHING YOU WANT, MY CREDIT ACCOUNT, ANYTHING, IT'S YOURS..
PLEASE LET ME GO...
FILING
NOOOOOO

TEN MILES EAST OF ELEPHANT BUTTE, NEW MEXICO
ATOMIC ROSE
A ROAD-HOUSE?
NOBODY CARES WHO YOU ARE HERE. RETSCANS REQUIRED.
HEY, ROSE, TWO ABOMINATIONS, STRAIGHT UP.
WHAT'S IN ONE OF THOSE?
BETTER NOT TO ASK.
HOW 'BOUT I ASK WHAT WE'RE DOING?
I NEED TO TRACK DOWN AN OLD FRIEND. SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP ME WITH THESE DISCS MAMA HURRICANE GAVE ME.*
THEY MAP HER RENDEZVOUS LOCATIONS WITH THE DRIVER.
ONCE WE FIND HIM, WE HAVE A LINE ON THE MUTANTS HE HELPED ESCAPE THE PURGE.
THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH WITH THE X-MEN.
*X-MEN 2099 #8--"DOE"
YEAH, BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS.
...AND THEY REQUIRE MUSCLE.
I'M GONNA MAKE A CALL, CASH IN AN OLD MARKER.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.




LA LUNÁTICA?

OUT OF MY WAY--

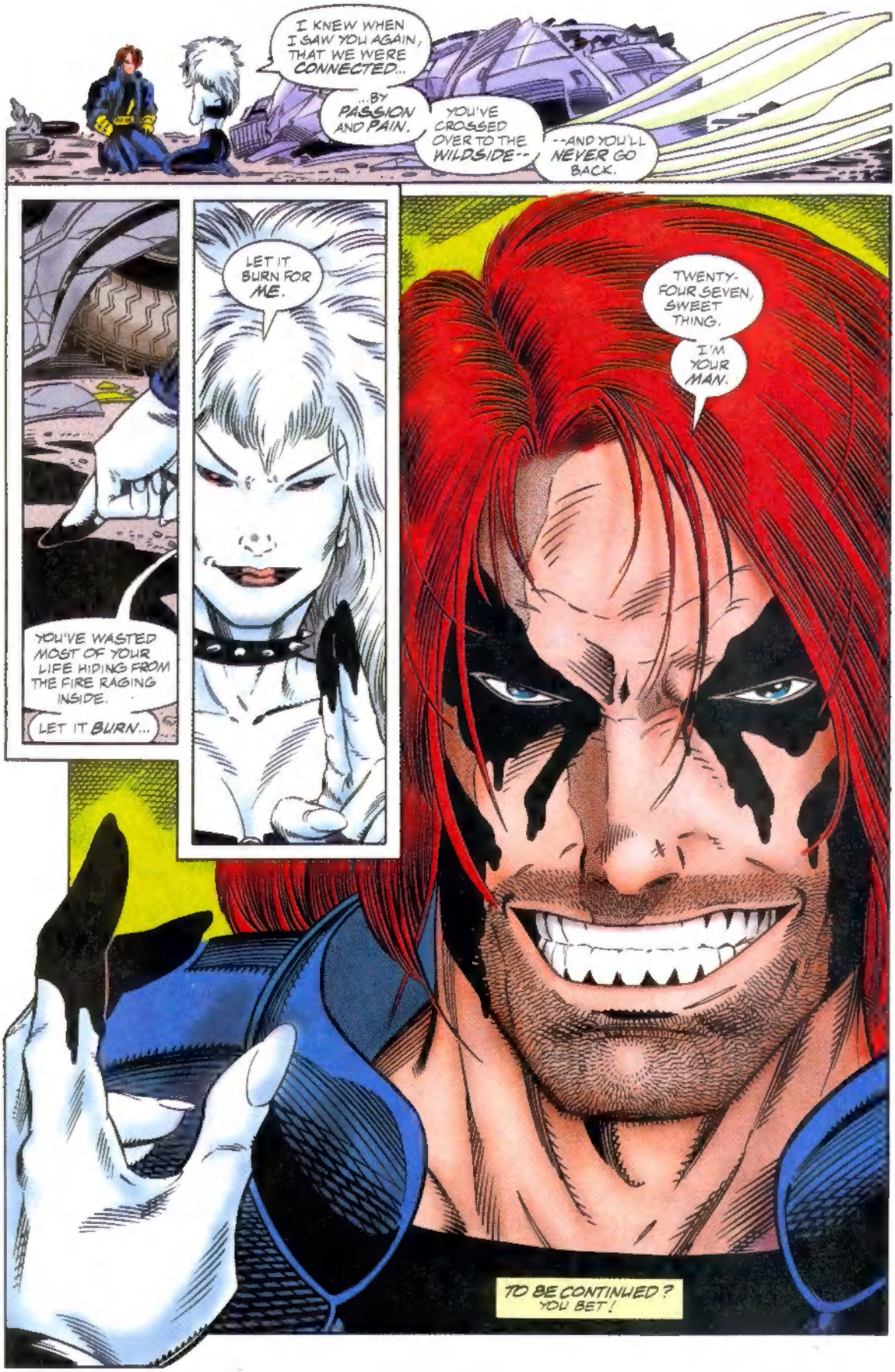

NOT SO FAST, GIRLFRIEND--
WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS--
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME, TIMOTHY FITZGERALD.

Your call has been placed
YEAH?
HELLO, LENNERTZ.
XI'AN? I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
AROUND. LISTEN, I NEED TO FIND HAIKU.
SHE'S NOT GONNA WANT TO SEE YOU. NOT AFTER THE WAY YOU LEFT THINGS...
LUNA!!!
CHILL OUT, FITZGERALD, I DON'T WANT--
NOT A CHANCE...
BACK OFF!
BACK OFF? AND GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE TO RIP UP MY MIND.
YOU DID ENOUGH DAMAGE THE FIRST TIME.*
I'M TRYING VERY HARD TO CONTROL MYSELF...
*X-MEN 2099 #4.--JOEY

I'M THROUGH CONTROLLING MYSELF.
YOU MADE ME RE-EXPERIENCE EVERY MOMENT OF PAIN AND ISOLATION I WENT THROUGH SINCE THESE POWERS MANIFESTED.
IT'S WHO I AM. I SURVIVE BY FEEDING ON ANGUISH.
BRRZZZAAK
YOU WON'T SURVIVE FOR LONG. I'M GONNA HURT YOU LIKE YOU HURT ME--
--I'M A LIVING ENERGY CONDUIT--
--AND THE POWER LINES RUNNING UNDERGROUND WILL LIGHT ME UP FOR DAYS.
SHINE ON WHILE YOU CAN...
ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THAT GLOW IN THE DARK BODY--
--YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO CAST A SHADOW.
VAMPIRE.
FOOL...

YOU'RE MINE!!!
KRAKOW
YOU'RE A LIVE WIRE, BABY--
--BUT I'M INSULATED.
I CAN TAKE YOUR HEAT.
CAN YOU TAKE MINE?
URGHH!
OH, SWEET THING, YOUR HEART IS POUNDING LIKE A JACKHAMMER.
YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING...
ALL REVVED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO.
DO... YOUR... WORST...

URMPFFF?!?
WHY... WHY DID YOU...
TO SEE IF YOU LIKED IT...
I DID...
YOU'RE INSANE...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, FITZGERALD?
BEFORE ME, YOU WERE FRIGHTENED OF YOUR POWER AND FRIGHTENED OF YOURSELF...
...BUT MY TOUCH AWAKENED ALL THE INSANE FURY INSIDE YOU.
YES...


I KNEW WHEN I SAW YOU AGAIN, THAT WE WERE CONNECTED...
...BY PASSION AND PAIN.
YOU'VE CROSSED OVER TO THE WILDSIDE--
--AND YOU'LL NEVER GO BACK.
LET IT BURN FOR ME.
YOU'VE WASTED MOST OF YOUR LIFE HIDING FROM THE FIRE RAGING INSIDE.
LET IT BURN...
TWENTY-FOUR SEVEN, SWEET THING.
I'M YOUR MAN.
TO BE CONTINUED? YOU BET!